

spite of this resolution, the Board did make some perfunctory presentations and obtained

made to carry on the campaign, and the bill eventually continued unheeded. The great Public Health Bill would set all right, and the Board was content to let things go on as they were. This was about the middle of 1887. A few months later the Bill was passed, but it did not become law in the colony till June 1888. Two years have since elapsed, and overcrowding exists to a great extent as ever. The authorities evidently thought they had done enough when they had passed a Bill. Every colony house owner would of course buy a copy of that precious ordinance, and would at once proceed to get his lungs in order. Pres-

heads of our rulers that perhaps the law might have to be enforced and that in some unaccountable way the mere passing of an ordinance had not set everything right.

it was such a pity to diminish the profits of the landlords of these densely-packed houses, and the Government

such a nice revenue out of the high rent made possible by the sardine-box packing and these Chinese houses were spreading so rapidly in the centre of the town, bit by bit invading the European quarter and raising the rents there and consequently the taxes, and—well there were so many reasons for a *laissez faire* policy that the authorities determined

would seem as if their consciences were pricked, perhaps on receipt of a sharp

assumed a spasmodic effort. The Sanitary Board was requested to state what steps proposed to take in the matter. The Board replied by enquiring what the Government

proposed to do, and, as neither knew what to do, the subject dropped. Finally the Sanitary Board did do something—it appointed a committee. This committee

appears to be some hope of its reporting and by. Then we shall be a step further on. We shall have a report. Meantime there is undeniable evidence that ev-

crowding does exist, that human beings packed more densely together in houses in British Hongkong than they are in Canton. Over-crowding is no doubt a difficult question to deal with, but difficulties exist to

The law gives the authorities power to insist that no house shall be inhabited in excess of one adult to every 300 cu

ceed with the enforcement of this provision, by proclaiming certain districts within which it shall be applied. The Public Health Ordinance further sets forth the

common lodging house unless the house is registered and the keeper thereof is licensed by the Registrar General. But the Government has never yet

Chinese lodging houses, if it is done at all, is a useless formality, as the observance of the law against overcrowding is not insisted upon.

licence. We do not seek to deny that
law can be enforced without inflicting
little hardship on somebody. The
who derives a big rent from a den

amount from a house occupied on the principle of one adult to every 300 cubic feet. But his interests are not identical with those of the Colony, in fact the two el-

gonistic. It was said in 1857 that it would be an injustice to drive people out of homes when there was no other place where they might lay their heads. But what

amount of truth there may have been
this cry three years ago, there is none
There is a large space for expansion at
the Eastern and Western ends of the t

pied. But the Chinese will crowd together in the central districts unless they are forced out of it. By a wise application of the law against overcrowding, by closing

more euphemistically called by the Chinese, the centre of the town, the dispersion to be accomplished and a great sanitary improvement might be effected, while the

out would be lessened and one of the hindrances to our future progress would be removed.

Smith (now Governor of the Straits Settlements), when Acting Colonial Secretary of Hongkong, in 1872, characterised the

the Commission, as being in a sort of experimental state. Recent events seem to show that, at least as regards the branches, this state will continue.

been put on a fairly satisfactory footing. The men are better paid, better clothed and housed, and on the whole they are to be more content. But with regard

been nothing but change and vacillation. In 1872 there was a Captain Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent;

(x) That there should be only two S

t, in a Deputy or Assistant Superintendent

(b) That promotion from the ranks should not be at the rank of 1st class Inspector, but should, where capability and zeal were shown, be open even up to the Head of the Department.

(c) That the force should not be invested with too much of the semi-military character.

Now what are the changes and what is the result? The changes are—the abolition of the posts of Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent of the Chinese Contingent and Paymaster, and the substitution for these of the offices of Military Adjutant and Chief Inspector. The result is unsatisfactory; so much so that the Government are about to revert to the old system, or rather to the system recommended by the Commission of 1872.—The Hongkong Government have almost invariably treated Commissioned body, either by entirely neglecting their recommendations or by acting diametrically contrary, and the consequences, as in this case, has generally been that, after many years of painful experience, they have been forced to the conclusion that they would have done well to pay some attention to the advice given. The post of Adjutant of Police, which had never much to recommend it, is now to be abolished and that of Acting Superintendent is to be re-established. The change is, we think, a good one. Major Dempster no doubt did his duties conscientiously. It is not, however, a question of men but of policy. The establishment of the Adjutant, as entirely blocked the way of advancement for the lower officers, was directly contrary to the recommendations of the commissioners and to good policy. Now comes the question of expense. The reorganization scheme includes a military inspector, and storekeeper, who has been appointed at a salary of £720 per annum; and the Assistant Superintendent to be appointed will probably have a salary of £2,000. Against this, we have to put the salaries now received by the Adjutant and Storekeeper, amounting to £1,824, and of course will lapse. The difference is an increased expenditure of about £900, but if the post of Chief Inspector is abolished a clear saving of over £500 would be effected. The advisability of abolishing that post, however, is very doubtful, and we have no doubt the Council will approve of the re-organization even although it entail little extra expenditure. The unofficial members, Mr. Ryrie in particular, have always insisted on the Police Force being made as efficient as possible, as on it in a large measure depends the peace and good order of the colony. Besides, the maintenance of this office would give a step of promotion to the officers and men of each rank, which would have a good effect throughout the force. Nothing discourages men more than to see the road of promotion completely blocked, as it was to a great extent under the old policy. There is little doubt that the next Captain Superintendent will be a military man, in which case of course the post of a military adjutant would be more than over unnecessary. There are some objections to the head of the police being a military officer, but if he is supported by an Assistant who has a large experience of police duties, many of the objections are removed, and there should not be much risk of the military element being overdone. It must be borne in mind, that the force is, first and foremost, a police force whose primary duty is the detection of crime, but in a Colony like Hongkong the military element cannot be altogether eliminated, and it is, perhaps, under certain conditions, preferable to have a man at the head who has had some experience of the command of a body of men.

TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL']

(Via Southern Line.)

FRANCE AND EGYPT.

LONDON, 11th June, 1890.

It is reported that France, in adhering to the conversion scheme, insists upon applying the proceeds to the increase of the Egyptian army, and thus hasten the evacuation of the country by England.

M. Ribot, in the Chamber, stated that France cannot allow England to establish herself in Egypt.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND.—*Lieutening Hamilton*, May 21; *Bentley*, 22; *Victor*, 27; *Coromandel*, *Cyclops*, *Diomed*, *Albatross*, *Nestor*, *Albatross*, *Albatross*, *Albatross*, June 8.

HOMEBOUND.—*Nile*, May 20; *Kaiser-Hind*, *Telmachus*, 21; *Agamemnon*, *Bayern*, *Daphne*, 20; *Patriot*, *Yangtze*, June 3.

The P. & O. S. S. Co.'s *Chin*, with the *AMERICAN MAIL* of May 21st, left Yokohama on Sunday, the 8th June, at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Friday, June 13.

The M. & C. steamship *Oniz*, with the French mail of May 16th, left Singapore on Wednesday, June 11, at 11 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 17th June. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on April 6.

The Canadian Pacific's *Albatross* left Vancouver for Japan and this port on May 30.

The S. S. *Delphinus*, from Hamburg, Antwerp and London, left Singapore on the 7th June, and may be expected here on or about the 13th June.

The S. S. *Phidippus*, from Odessa, left Singapore on the 8th June, and may be expected here on or about the 14th June.

The O. S. S. Co.'s *Delphinus*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for this port on the 9th June, and is due here on the 15th June.

The P. & O. Co.'s extra steamer *Delphinus*, left Singapore on the 8th June at 4 p.m., and may be expected here on or about the 15th June.

The D. D. R. Co.'s *Delphinus* left Singapore on the 10th June, and may be expected here on or about the 16th June.

The O. S. S. Co.'s *Delphinus*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 11th June, and may be expected here on or about the 17th June.

The S. S. *Crown of Arragon*, from Antwerp, left Singapore on June 11, and may be expected here on or about the 17th June.

The E. & A. S. S. Co.'s *Delphinus* left Port Darwin on the 8th June, and may be expected here on or about the 17th June.

The P. & O. Co.'s extra *s. Shanghai* left Bombay for this port on the 4th June.

The *Menagay* left to-day for Shanghai.

The S. S. *Tartar* arrived at Vancouver on the 11th inst., from Yokohama.

A petition was recently addressed to the Chinese Government with reference to the employment of steamers in interior waters. The matter was referred to the Tsung-li Yamen, who recommended that the opinion of the Governor General and Governors of the various provinces be obtained. We find mention of only one answer having as yet been received. The Governor of Chinghai reports against the introduction of steamers into waters not open to foreigners. The reasons he gives for his recommendation are—the narrowness of the waters, the existence of sand banks, numerous bridges, danger of damaging the native boat trade, the fear of a further extension of the Customs' jurisdiction.

A 'LUXURIANT' writes us protesting against the wholesale condemnation of Portuguese because a few have been guilty of fraudulent conduct. He says there has been 'an epidemic of embezzlement' all over the world, and he maintains, and in this we believe, is perfectly correct, that the number of Portuguese who have proved unworthy of the trust imposed in them is not proportionately greater than the number of Britishers who have gone astray. It is, of course, very foolish to raise a cry against the Portuguese community whenever one member thereof has been accused or convicted of dishonesty. The Portuguese fulfil a useful function here, and their number is in proportion to the demand for them. It is a wise principle to let the law of supply and demand regulate employment. The role of Britain in the world will have been played out when her sons require codling protection.

STANLEY's company had a good house again last night, when a burlesque entitled 'Lalla Rookh' was produced. The piece is of a nondescript character and makes a nearer approach to a pantomime than to anything else. It gives scope, however, for a good deal of spectacular effect, and in this respect the company, from its more numerous strength, is able to score to a considerable extent. The writer of 'Lalla Rookh', Mr. L. A. Mason, has shown a good deal of talent of a certain kind, but he has not told his story in a way that enables an audience to follow it easily. However, this defect is the less conspicuous on account of the fact that he evidently had not much of a story to tell. The music incidental to 'Lalla Rookh' is of the kind that commends itself chiefly to the uncultured ear and does not tax the powers of the performers. Some popular music hall airs which were introduced were received with great favour, and the audience showed a strong desire to hear more of them. The scene of the burlesque being in the East, the scenery and dresses had a strong tendency towards gorgeousness. Of the principal performers Miss A. Stanley as *Farouk*, the minister, was the favourite, her sprightly acting and singing winning frequent rounds of applause. Miss L. Scherlock made a favourable impression in the title role. Mr. Dickson had very little scope for his particular kind of talent in the part of the Emperor, but he made the most of his chances. Mr. Pyrie was very successful as *Fadladdin*, and was a constant source of amusement. Mr. Frank Fletcher's *Mokama* was an excellent bit of burlesque acting. Miss Dolly Logan as *Hafid*, Miss Fanny Stanley as *Sindia*, Miss D. Childs as *Elmira* and Miss Ada Maitland as *Leoline* gave a good account of their respective parts. To-night 'The Mikado' will be given.

The natives say the *Footen Echo*, and natives very much from tobacco and the whole country is said to be infected with the malady.

The *Spectator* says the English workmen held a labour display in the heart of the richest quarter of the Metropolis, the magnitude of which would have sent any Continental Government into a fit of political hysteria, and yet did not frighten a single old maid.

Owing to scarcity of rice, which prevailed during the last two months, the Government has ordered the large stock for sale at very low prices, and the dealers consequently have said to lower their prices, which are now considerably cheaper than a week ago.—*Pa chow Echo*.

The heavy rain we have had during the early part of the week, says the *Footen Echo* of 7th inst., has caused the river to rise as much as to cover some of the lower range of streets leading from the Customs House, and many the fields with the rice plants were flooded. However, we are glad to see that with the cessation of rain, the water in the river has fallen.

A CYCLOPS gentleman advertised for a 'second-hand copying press.' Among the answers he received was the following:—

'I beg to apply to the Post and Land Office what salary will be paid to your Most Obedient servant, F. C. GOODEWARDEN.'

From the list of arrivals, and settlements of the 7th inst. will be observed, says the *Footen Echo*, that arrivals are not yet completed as many qualities have not yet arrived. From what we learn, the natives do not intend to bring all their tea down unless the demand is good, as they hope, in case no remunerative offer is made, to save the heavy litan, and other taxes, which they have to pay as soon as tea are moved down. The step is undoubtedly a wise one, but we fear the want of sufficient funds in the main cause.

A GERMAN contemporary has the following story:—In Upper Silesia, in Silesia, a working man sold his wife for a term of two years to an acquaintance for a shilling. The wife lived with her new partner in harmony, when one day, the latter had a handkerchief he had surrendered her too cheaply, called upon the man and demanded a further sum of fifteen shillings. The lady, he said, had a set of beautiful teeth. He had forgotten that, and he considered fifteen shillings a small sum under the circumstances. The man in possession, demurred, and the husband sought the aid of the law. The authorities, it appears, pronounced that as he had contracted himself out of his legal rights for two years, and for a shilling, he was not entitled to any further amount.

FOON KING Dinab Salif's visit to the Paris Exhibition was an ill-fated one for him. That good-natured African chief, says our Paris Correspondent, went back to his subjects as a disappointed man, and he had had seen that he wished to transform his state into a tropical France. Decree after decree was issued with this intention, until at last his subjects got tired of the new moulding process, and conspired together and murdered him. The day monarch was a magnificent specimen of the West African black, and the admiration of all the sculptors and painters who saw him at the Exhibition fêtes at the Elysee, and he sometimes wore a Greek dress and sometimes a bishop's vestment which he had bought in the Spanish market of the Exhibition. The detailed telling of his assassination is silent about the fate of his wife, Queen Phillis.

The new edition of 'Men of the Time,' prepared under the direction of Mr. G. Washington Moon, is to be the more appropriate title of 'Men and Women of the Time,' and, what is more important, it is to comprise some five hundred new names. This useful volume has grown in bulk and importance considerably since the late Mr. Knight-Ridgway published the first square book which formed the original edition of the 'Men of the Time,' but it has been hitherto inferior as a dictionary of contemporaries to Vapereau, and it is a just reproach that those who use 'Men of the Time' have often been compelled to turn to Vapereau's Dictionary for an American work for an account of some living English author. Celebrities who are recognized in the New World ought clearly not to be overlooked at home.

The naval manoeuvres at Hongkong, says the *Argos*, some one has been what exciting character. But there must have been some capital practice also and a good deal of fun. The general idea was that a squadron, having run for shelter under the batteries of Tytan, and having secured itself by some mines and torpedo boats, was followed up by a superior force, under the command of Captain Hall. It seems that, as usual, the attack by the back-door, that is by men landed at a distance and marching onward, was the only attack which was successful. But there were many other things to be done, and a lot of torpedo-boats came to grief. Yet must we always remember that one's eyes cannot be always without breaking eyes, and that every accident is itself a lesson, generally well worth the cost if there is any sense in the motto which tells us to be prepared for war if we want peace.

AMERICAN proposal to reduce the overland postal rates is yet before the Government of India, the English despatch upon the subject being probably now on its way out, the American proposal is what the English Government is at present considering. The Government is being consulted as to the reduction of rates, and the Government of India cannot in such a question occupy the position of a single dissentient. The change will cost money, and the financial authorities will not rely on the better because it will be an addition to the sterling charges, and it will probably be many years before the extra traffic will be large enough to recoup the sacrifice of revenue. Still in the long run a courageous policy usually pays in the end, and the Government, as we have said, a refusal would not be invidious. We may take it then for certain that the change will come about in the near future. The reduction, it may be added, will probably be to 25 cents, not 20, and will apply to letters only.—*Statesman*.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung of the Hu Province issued a proclamation to the pawn-shop proprietors ordering them to reduce the rates of interest which they charge on commodities pledged to them by persons in straitened circumstances. The proclamation commands that from the 1st of October, November, and December (the Government charges the pawn-shops for money lent them 12 per cent. per annum); should they refuse to comply with my order to reduce the interest during the mentioned months, I will make an order, that any pawnshop which refuses to comply with my order, shall be closed, and the Government will charge the pawn-shops for money lent them 12 per cent. per annum; should they refuse to comply with my order to reduce the interest during the mentioned months, I will make an order, that any pawnshop which refuses to comply with my order, shall be closed, and the Government will charge the pawn-shops for money lent them 12 per cent. per annum; should they refuse to comply with my order to reduce the interest during the mentioned months, I will make an order, that any pawnshop which refuses to comply with my order, shall be closed, and the Government will charge the pawn-shops for money lent them 12 per cent. per annum; 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